



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2240E-650**  
**Sociological Theory**  
**Fall/Winter 2018/2019**

**Instructor: Dr. Amanda Zavitz, PhD**

**Office Location:** Department of Sociology, Office SSC 5209

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***Course Description:***

This course examines a wide-range of classical sociological theorists. The main task will be to make sociological theory relevant to an understanding and appreciation of human society. More specifically, the primary goal is to help students to develop a way of looking at past and contemporary issues “sociologically”, and from a structural rather than individual standpoint. In doing so, we will discuss theory as a tool for organizing existing knowledge and as a means of generating “new’ knowledge. We will attempt to understand each theorist within their own time so that we can appreciate the specific social and historical contexts, which gave rise to their particular forms of theorizing. A constant theme that will be developed in the course is that of the complex relationships among ideology, social order, and social change. How are these themes reflected in various schools of thought? What are the origin of theories and ideas as they relate to the changing conditions of humanity?

***Prerequisite(s):*** At least 60% in 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B

***Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not have appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.***

***Antirequisite(s):*** Sociology 2270A/B and Sociology 2271A/B or the former Sociology 230.

***Extra Information:*** 3 hours, 1.0 course.

Sociology 2240E or 2270A/B and 2271A/B are mandatory for students registered in Yr 2 of an Honors Specialization offered through the Dept. of Sociology.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the prerequisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

***Learning Outcomes:***

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Conceptualize and apply their sociological imagination to explain social issues from a social structural and critical perspective.
- Understand and critically evaluate the three main classical sociological theorists; Marx, Durkheim and Weber.
- Understand and critically evaluate contemporary sociological theorists; critical theory, exchange and rational choice theories, modern theory and postmodern theory
- Apply classical and contemporary sociological theory to current social issues in Canadian society.

***Required Text(s):***

Ritzer, George. 2018. Sociological Theory, 10th edition. NY: McGraw Hill.

***Method of Evaluation:***

**Online discussion:** 20%

<b>Essay:</b> 20%	February
<b>Midterm Exam:</b> 30%	December
<b>Final Exam:</b> 30%	April

***Evaluation Breakdown:***

**Tests:** Each test will consist of multiple choice, definitions, fill in the blank and essay questions. The tests are not cumulative in nature.

**Midterm Exam:** Christmas exam period, date and time to be announced.

**Final Exam:** Final exam period, date and time to be announced.

**Essay-** This is an essay course. Thus, you are required to write a formal academic essay in this course. Your essay is **DUE Wednesday February 6, 2019**. Late papers will be penalized at 10% per day.

**Class assignments-** there will be class assignments assigned throughout both terms. Some of the assignments will be completed in class, others will be given to take home and complete. These class assignments are meant to encourage class attendance and participation.

***How to Contact Me:***

I can best be reached via email at [azavitzg@uwo.ca](mailto:azavitzg@uwo.ca). Please email me to set up an appointment or come to see me during my scheduled office hours.

***How to get important information:***

Important course information will be delivered in class. It is your responsibility to get to class. Please come to class.

## **Important Policies**

***Policies for Assignment Deadlines:***

There are no make-up class assignments. You must be in class to receive the assignment and in class to submit the assignment. These “pop” assignments are meant to encourage active participation and regular attendance. Your essay must be submitted at the beginning of class the day that it is due. All late papers will be penalized ten percent per day and no papers will be accepted a week after the due date.

***A Note on Plagiarism:***

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

***Plagiarism Checking:***

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”

### ***Policies on Examinations:***

The are no electronics allowed during examinations. Considerations for make-up examinations will only be made with academic counselling.

### ***Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness***

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

[http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### ***Accessibility Options:***

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### ***Scholastic Offences***

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### ***Mental Health***

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

### **Fall 2017 Term- Classical Sociological Theory**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
Week one- Sept. 6	Introduction to theory	Introduction discussion
Week two- Sept. 10	Thinking Sociologically; sociological imagination	Mills, The Promise (online)
Week three- Sept. 17	Agency versus structure	Its Only Human Nature Discussion question 1

Week four- Sept. 24	Enlightenment	Ritzer, chapter 1
Week five- Oct. 1	Romantic Conservatism	Ritzer, chapter 1 Discussion question 2
Reading week- Oct 9-12	Reading week	
Week six- Oct. 15	The Birth of Sociology	Ritzer, chapter 1 Discussion question 3
Week seven- Oct. 22	Durkheim	Ritzer, chapter 3
Week eight- Oct. 29	Durkheim	Ritzer, chapter 3 Discussion question 4
Week nine- Nov. 5	Marx	Ritzer, chapter 2
Week ten- Nov. 12	Marx	Ritzer, chapter 2 Discussion question 5
Week eleven- Nov. 19	Weber	Ritzer, chapter 4 Discussion question 6
Week twelve- Nov. 26	Early Women Sociologists	Ritzer, chapter 5 Discussion question 7
Week thirteen- Dec. 3	Study for midterm	Midterm covers all material studied to this point.
Week fourteen- Dec 10-21	Midterm Date and time TBA	Midterm test

**Winter Term 2018**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings/Assignments</b>
Week one- Jan. 7	Structural functionalism Discussion question 8	Ritzer, chapters 6 & 7
Week two- Jan. 14	Critical Theory	Ritzer, chapter 8
Week three- Jan. 21	Exchange, network and rational choice theories	Ritzer, chapter 12 Discussion question 9
Week four- Jan. 28	Symbolic Interactionism	Ritzer, chapter 10
Week five- Feb. 4	Ethnomethodology and Phenomenology	Ritzer, chapter 11 <b>ESSAY DUE- February 7</b>
Week six- Feb. 11	Ethnomethodology and Phenomenology Discussion question 10	Ritzer, chapter 11
Week seven- Feb. 18-22	Reading week	No classes
Week eight- Feb. 25	Feminist theory	Readings, Online
Week nine- Mar. 4	Integrative social theory	Ritzer, chapter 15 Discussion question 11
Week ten- Mar. 11	Global Society	
Week eleven- Mar. 18	Applied social theory – why isn't the whole world developed?	Ritzer, chapter 16 Discussion question 12
Week twelve – Mar. 25	Postmodernism	Ritzer, chapter 17 &18 Discussion question 13
Week thirteen- April 1	Final examination prep	Discussion question 14
Week fourteen- April 11-30	Final exam	Date and time TBA